Numb. 51.

The EXAMINER.

From Thursday *July* 12, to Thursday *July* 19, 1711.

Avaritia fidem, probitatem, cæteraſq; bonas artes ſubvertit; pro iis ſuperbiam, crudelitatem, Deos negligere, & omnia venalia habere, edocuit.

I Conſider my ſelf grown a very uſeleſs Writer; but it was no more than I foreſaw, when I firſt began with the *Medley*: I knew my Paper would inſenſibly dwindle into the thing himſelf and his Party deſired, and my time be loſt in managing a Diſpute fruitleſs to the Town, and inſignificant even to our ſelves: He is reſolved not to be convinced, nor I to be perverted; he has ſtill his Prompters, and I my Readers; we both are where we began; he will yet continue to animadvert falſly, and I deſign henceforward to take no more notice of what he writes, than Men are uſed to do by notorious Liars; who, if they ever happen to ſpeak Truth, muſt bring other Vouchers than themſelves, to gain that Belief which their continued courſe of Falſity has juſtly robbed them of from the Publick.

I had perhaps cloſed my Papers with this, and took leave till the Meeting of the Parliament, pleaſed to leave Affairs in ſo quick and promiſing a Condition, had I not met with a very ſcarce Manuſcript out of a certain Library; I believe the Tranſlation of part of it will not be unacceptable to the Town: The Author is that famous *Italian*, *Giovanni Adolbrandi*, who made his particular Requeſt, that his Works might never be printed: The Manuſcript I ſpeak of is called *Marcus Antoninus*, wrote in the ſame ſort of Verſe with the *Rinaldo* of *Taſſo*, whoſe Senior he was: The Paſſage I would Tranſlate, is *Fulvia*'s going to the Houſe of Pride, to implore the Succour of the Goddeſs towards ruining the Vertue of *Agrippa*, the Favourite of *Auguſtus*. There are ſo many parallel Incidents in the Deſcription, that I am tempted to believe our famous *Spencer* had read this Poem, when he gave the World his Fourth Canto of the Firſt Book of his *Fairy Queen*.

Our Author introduces *Dolabella* telling the Hiſtory of the Triumvirate; *Lepidus*'s Removal, *Antony*'s Behaviour in the Eaſt, and *Octavius*'s Government at *Rome*, when he had call'd *Agrippa* to aſſiſt him in the Management of Affairs; whoſe Wiſdom and great Abilities prov'd deſtructive to the Hopes *Antony*'s Friends had entertained of ſeeing him ſole Arbitrator of the Empire. *Fulvia*, the Wife of *Antony*, is recorded by *Plutarch* to be a bold and enterprizing Woman; our Poet enters very well into her Character, where *Dolabella* relates, That he beheld in his Journey a ſtupendous Palace, with a broad High-way, made bare by the number of Paſſengers that hourly travelled that way, few of whom ever returned, but ſuch whom Poverty had reduced: The Avenues were filled with Beggars, who though in Rags and Ruins, retained their former Air and Deportment: When they required your Charity, it was ſtill with a vaunting Introduction of what they had been.

Approaching nearer I ſaw (continued he) two buſie Perſons, gaily habited, entertaining the Crowd that were in the broad Road; theſe were *Flattery* and *Folly*; the firſt made her ſelf acceptable by exceſs of Compliance, and perpetual Praiſes; for ſuch was her Induſtry, that ſhe left not even Vice without its Applauſe, endearing to the Wearers their very Defects: *Folly* was no leſs aſſiduous in beſpeaking Credit of her Siſter, aſſuring him, that whatever was ſpoke by *Flattery* was indiſputable: In this delightful Converſation, the Travellers paſt happily on to the *Palace*, where they were met by *Vanity*, who with much Applauſe and Ceremony, which they took for Reſpect, conducted them into the Houſe of *Pride*.

This dazzling, unweildy Structure, was built amidſt the Tears and Groans of a People harraſs'd with a lingring War, to gratifie the Ambition of a *Subject*, whilſt the *Sovereign's Palace* lay in *Aſhes*. It was dedicated, from the firſt Foundation, to the Goddeſs of *Pride*; the Building exceſſive *coſtly*, but not *artful*; the *Architect* ſeem'd to conſider how to be moſt profuſe, and therefore neglected an advantageous Eminence (made proper by Nature) to build one a quarter of a Mile ſhort of it, at the vain Expence of Fifty Millions of Seſterces. There were to be ſeen ſtately *Towers*, noble *Porticoes*, ample *Piazza's*, and well-turned *Pillars*, without one handſom Room, unleſs you will call the Kitchin and Cellars ſuch; which part of the Houſe happens to be of very little or no uſe to the *Parſimonious* Founder: A number of Chambers, but none convenient; fine Gardens without Water; the whole Building raiſed upon a ſandy Foundation; every Breath from Court, every Blaſt puffed away ſome Grains of that huge fleeting Hill, upon which this Palace was erected.

Here the Goddeſs kept her Court, within an inner Chamber, into which Paſſengers were conducted: She was ſeated upon a *Throne*, raiſed under a *Canopy* within an *Alcove*; whoever gaz'd on her, ſeldom beheld any thing with approbation but themſelves; her Beauty was mixed with Diſdain, and well expreſſed her inward Contempt for inferior Objects; ſhe fixt her Eyes upwards, unleſs when by intervals they were caſt upon a *Mirror* ſhe held in her Hand, which reflected back her own Charms, the only Image in which ſhe took delight.

My Attention, as well as that of the whole Aſſembly, was ſuddenly taken off from the Goddeſs, and transferred to a Lady, who with Precipitation broke through the Crowd, and made directly to the Throne: Though paſs'd her Meridian, her Bloom was ſucceeded by ſo graceful an Air, that Youth could ſcarce make her more deſirable: Her fair Hair was tuck'd under a *Tiara* of Jewels made in the Faſhion of a CORONET. If her Beauty prepoſſeſſed us to her Advantage, we were not leſs terrified in beholding the Company ſhe was in: On one ſide marched *Envy*, laſhing her with Whips and *Snakes*, giving her to drink by intervals from a Cup of Wine mingled with Gall and Wormwood. Her other Supporter was *Wrath*, who continually toſs'd a flaming Brand, directing her Sight to a Dagger which he held; his Looks ghaſtly, his Limbs trembling, his Body half expos'd, the reſt clothed with a Robe ſtained with Blood, and torn by his own Fury, which was ſo fierce he could not reſtrain it ſometimes from falling upon himſelf. His Breath was inceſſantly apply'd to the Lady's Spleen and Brain, from whence violent Agonies and raging Phrenſies ſucceeded, as was evident by a *Toſs* and Motion as particular as wonderful.

She was attired in a Crimſon *Robe* edged with *Ermin*, and buckled with Diamonds; her Train born by one who had formerly been her Maſter of the Ceremonies, and who under the falſe Title of *Good Eſtabliſhment*, had introduced her with Applauſe into the World; but having made the Fortune of his Votary, he was no longer ſollicitous to preſerve Appearances, but ſubmitted to be called by his true Name *Ingratitude*.

The

The Goddeſs not only vouchſafed her a gracious Look, but gave her Hand to the Lady who was named *Fulvia*; after a tender Embrace ſhe ſeated her by her on the Throne, called her Conquereſs in right of her Husband, Daughter, Favorite, her Repreſentative, her other Self: bid her name her Diſtreſs, and depend upon her for Relief.

Fulvia with Sighs told the Goddeſs, that from a Proſpect of being the moſt happy Perſon, ſhe was become the Miſerableſt. The Lawrels daily faiding upon the Brow of her abſent Lord; their Partizans wholly removed from *Auguſtus*'s Favour; and which was worſe, *Agrippa*, a Perſon of fatal Virtue, deſtructive to the Ambition of her Party, was truſted with the ſole management of Affairs, notwithſtanding their mighty Cabals and hourly Intriegues, to retrieve the Power they had loſt. *Agrippa*'s Reputation was mounted to ſuch a pitch, that ſhe could not behold and live, thoſe two Tormentors *Wrath* and *Envy*, giving her no remiſſion, 'till he were deſtroyed. She therefore beſought the Goddeſs, ſince falſe Reports, Treachery and Aſſaſſinations had failed, that ſhe would go her ſelf, and take Avarice along with Titles and Wealth, to puff up his Soul, and deſtroy his Vertue, that he might fall as her ſelf and other Favorites had done, by the Sin of Pride, and the Love of Riches.

To whom the Goddeſs replied, It is not the leaſt of my Troubles that I muſt tell you, your Requeſt is vain: I have attempted inlarging our Empire, by the acceſſion of ſo powerful a Perſon as *Agrippa*; I applied the Charms of Wealth and Luxury; I applied my ſelf, but he is more Abſtemious, more Sedate than before: I beheld the hateful Goddeſs of Virtue encircling him with her protecting Wings; I heard her tell him ſhe would direct his Steps and never forſake him; that the Empire ſhould flouriſh at its greateſt height under his Adminiſtration; that *Pride* ſhould be defeated, *Avarice* return baffled and aſhamed, his Hoards inviolable; that the uprightneſs of his Manners, his extenſive Soul and vaſt Capacity, ſhould make his a Name, which the Race of Favorites for time immemorial ſhould think it their Glory to be called by: Whereas Hiſtory had not hitherto deliver'd down One, but where the Parallel would be in ſome parts an Injuſtice to his Character; as if unbounded Power and ſolid Vertue had been irreconcilable, 'till met in *Agrippa*.

But, my beloved Daughter, that Vertue we cannot corrupt, may yet be eclips'd: We will cauſe Diſtruſt and Impatiency to enter into the Minds of his Party, they ſhall Fear what they ought to Reverence: Thoſe prodigious Qualifications that diſtinguiſh *Agrippa*, may be turned againſt him; whilſt his very Foes admire his Abilities, we will make his Friends miſcal his Wiſdom, *Cunning*. Though he be inceſſantly working for the Good of the Empire, they ſhall be hoodwink'd to thoſe Advantages. Neither new Seas explor'd, nor Countries diſcovered and ſubdued; the heavy Debts of the Empire diſcharged, Credit reſtored, Peace brought home to their Dwelling, Trade ſecure and flouriſhing; ſhall overcome thoſe Suſpicions and bad Impreſſions we will make upon the People. Your *Faction*, vigilant and bold, ſhall diſperſe falſe Reports, *Antony*'s Zeal muſt languiſh; let him attempt no farther for the good of the Empire, but his own: Thoſe two Demons that haunt you ſhall be appeas'd; Revenge be ſatiated, offer upon his Altars, and ſupplicate the Goddeſs of *Diſcord*, that ſhe may diſappear from among you, and more effectually poſſeſs your Enemies.

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Juſt publiſh'd the 2d Edition of

*** A Sermon preach'd at Chriſt Church in Dublin, before their Excellencies the Lords Juſtices on Tueſday the 29th of May, 1711, being the Anniverſary of the Happy Reſtoration. By Joſeph Trapp, M. A. Fellow of Wadham College in the Univerſity of Oxford, and Chaplain to the Right Honourable Sir Conſtantine Phipps Lord High Chancellor, and one of the Lords Juſtices of the Kingdom of Ireland. Publiſh'd by their Excellencies Special Command. Printed for H. Clements at the Half Moon in St. Paul's Church-yard.

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†‡† The Divine Rights and Duties of the Chriſtian Prieſthood, as they are contain'd in the Holy Scriptures, delivered in a Farewel Sermon, at Morden College upon Blackheath, the 29th of April, 1711. By Sam. Aſpin, M. A. with a Preface ſhewing ſome of the Moderation of the Diſſenting Truſtees, to Church Charity, price 3d. Printed for G. Sawbridge, and ſold by J. Morphew near Stationers Hall, where may be had 3 Sermons of Alex. Scott, Publiſh'd in Vindication of himſelf againſt the falſe Reports of Diſſenters.

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*** A Sermon Preach'd at the Pariſh Church of St. Sepulchre, May the 24th, 1711, being Thurſday in Whitſun-Week, at the Anniverſary Meeting of the Children educated in the Charity-Schools in and about the Cities of London and Weſtminſter. Publiſh'd at the Requeſt of ſeveral Gentlemen concern'd in that Charity. By Andrew Snape, D. D. Rector of St. Mary-at-Hill, and Chaplain in Ordinary to Her Majeſty. Sold by Jonah Bowyer at the Roſe in Ludgate-ſtreet.

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